SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans as well as in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins may be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY ON 18 APRIL

FEEL LIKE A CHALLENGE DURING LOCK DOWN?

and

SA-QSL IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO NON-MEMBERS

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin this bulletin with news of a silent key.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce that the key of Anthony Forteath, ZS2BQ went silent on Tuesday 7 April 2020. Anthony served as Chairman of the Border Radio Club for several years and he was an Assistant Provincial Director for Hamnet Eastern Cape.

We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

PAUSE

The President and Council wish you a Blessed Easter and a Blessed Pesach to our Jewish members.

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY ON 18 APRIL

It was on this day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union was formed in Paris. World Amateur Radio Day is the day when the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Member Societies can show our capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other Amateurs worldwide. The theme for WARD 2020 is "Celebrating Amateur Radio's Contribution to Society."

Tim Ellam, VE6SH, IARU President writes, "As I write this the world is in the midst of battling the COVID-19 crisis. A few short weeks ago many of us could not imagine the levels of isolation that we are now dealing with and the

sacrifices of many on the frontlines of the pandemic. As we have done in past challenges to our society, Amateur Radio will play a key part in keeping people connected and assisting those who need support.

Having come off my own 14-day isolation after returning from an overseas trip, I am touched by the kindness of strangers who assisted me when I was unable to leave my house. It strikes me Amateur Radio operators, who give so much during these times of crisis, are not limited to assisting over the air. Amateurs are true volunteers and I would encourage everyone to assist in the community as they are able to.

My wish for this World Amateur Radio Day is for everyone to stay safe, follow the advice of medical professionals and use Amateur Radio and your skills to help us through this crisis."

WARD 2020 CERTIFICATE

Get on the air from 08:00 to 21:59 UTC on Saturday 18 April 2020 and work fellow radio amateurs on all bands and modes. ZS95SARL and the SARL Council count as multipliers. Submit your log, showing time, frequency, call sign worked and name, by e-mail to secretary@sarl.org.za. The closing date is midnight on Monday 20 April. Your WARD 2020 certificate will be e-mailed to you.

TWO CONTESTS THIS WEEKEND

The Autumn QRP Contest runs from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 18 April 2020 with CW and SSB activity on 40 metres for the first hour and on the other HF contest bands during the remaining two hours. The power output is 5 watts (PEP) output or less, a station may be worked once per band per mode and there are no antenna restrictions. The exchange is a RS or RST report and your full 6-character grid locator. Please consider exchanging realistic RS(T) signal reports. Submit your log by 27 April 2020 by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za

The ZS4 Sprint is on the air from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Sunday 19 April 2020 with CW and phone activity on 40 metres. ZS4 stations will give a RS or RST report and the name or abbreviation of their town. All other stations will give a RS or RST report and their provincial or country abbreviation. Your log must be submitted by 27 April 2020 by e-mail to zs4srk@gmail.com. As always, check the 2020 Blue Book for the rules, page 42 for the QRP Contest and page 59 for the ZS4 Sprint.

The Sasolburg ARC has informed SARL News that the ZS4SRK Balloon Contest scheduled for Saturday 18 April has been postponed to a later date due to the lock down.

FEEL LIKE A CHALLENGE DURING LOCK DOWN?

The ZS-CW group now extended to be the Africa-CW group has been extremely active during the lock down period and has now started an initiative combined with the 4 contacts a day (page 10 of the April Radio ZS) and has a mini CW

contest every day. It is just a fun activity but has certainly brought the CW portion of the band to life. Dust off your key and join in the fun.

SARL News of 5 April told you about the Lock Down Jailbreak! Dave, ZS2DH says that 48 radio amateurs have registered and received Jailbreak Keys, but only 8 keys have been exchanged. Visit www.sarah.org.za/, register and then find out more about the Lockdown Jailbreak! There is also a PDF document telling you about this activity at www.sarah.org.za/lockdownGame.pdf

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

SA-QSL IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO NON-MEMBERS

Jan Botha, ZS4JAN says that many new call signs have been logged during the lockdown period. Many of these new and old call signs are not familiar with SA-QSL, the purpose of it and how to utilize this function. Most important is the fact that this system can be utilized by everybody, regardless of being a SARL member or not. Please go to www.sarl.org.za/SAQSL/Default.asp to read and understand the functionality of SA-QSL.

If you have a small envelope next to your logged-in call sign at the top of the SARL page, then you have a new QSL waiting to be confirmed. Click on this envelope to see your new QSL and confirm should the information correlate with your logbook entry. Another method to check if you have QSLs awaiting a response from you, should there be no envelope next to your logged-in call sign is as follows:

1. Go to SA-QSL or follow this link www.sarl.org.za/SAQSL/Default.asp
2. On the left side of the SA-QSL home page, down at the bottom is:
3. Help a friend without Internet to QSL?
4. Enter your call sign in the block below
5. Click Lookup
6. You are up to date if no QSL information is displayed

NON MEMBERS - Please consider becoming a SARL member. SARL members are authenticated by their SARL passwords. Non-members need to register, simply in order to obtain a password so that only the holder of the call sign can gain access. Note – very important! That the e-mail confirming your registration will be sent to the e-mail address held on the SARL database. If that is missing or has changed, then you must first update your address using the update link on the Callbook page.

Non Members can log in to SA-QSL or follow this link www.sarl.org.za/SAQSL/Default.asp

On the very top you will see NEED TO REGISTER, click on that USE YOUR CALLSIGN and follow the instructions. You will find the QSL under MY NEW QSL's. Tick the reply block and submit.

WIN R500 FOR YOUR PROJECT IN THE MAY AND JUNE RADIO ZS

Your project can win you membership to the SARL for 2020/2021. With 21 days of lock down ahead, there is time for projects (excluding mowing the lawn or painting the bathroom). The Editor of Radio ZS is looking for an article with photographs and diagrams of your project for the May and June issues of Radio ZS. The best article each month will be awarded with an SARL Membership for the new financial year. Get the information on page 10 and 17 of the April 2020 Radio ZS.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There is currently no sunspot region visible on the solar disk. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. With the recent equinox, the 15 to 30 m bands will, especially late afternoon, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

13 April - Family Day

18 April - World Amateur Radio Day and the Autumn QRP Sprint

19 April – the ZS4 Sprint

25 April – the SARL 95 40 m Club Sprint

27 April – Freedom Day

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our main news item:

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This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson ZS1S and read by .....

From the news team, stay healthy, adhere to the regulations and the best wishes for the week ahead.